

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus  
comprising:

5 a display device which can control display  
brightness;

means for controlling the display brightness of  
the display device according to a peripheral  
environment;

10 means for inputting an operation input; and  
means for switching brightness control of the  
display device by the means for controlling display  
brightness to brightness control by another means for  
controlling display brightness,

15 wherein, when inputting a predetermined operating  
instruction, the means for switching brightness control  
of the display device to another brightness control  
temporarily switches the brightness control of the  
display device from brightness control by the means for  
controlling display brightness to brightness control in  
20 accordance with the predetermined operating  
instruction.

2. The information apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the means for switching brightness  
control of the display device to another brightness  
25 control includes means for sensing start-up of a preset  
application program, and switches brightness control of  
the display device from brightness control by the means

for controlling the display brightness to brightness control specific to the application program when the sensing means senses start-up of the application program.

5           3. The information apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the means for switching brightness control of the display device to another brightness control includes means for inputting the predetermined operating instruction, switching brightness control of  
10 the display device from brightness control by the means for controlling the display brightness to brightness control in accordance with the predetermined operating instruction, and, returning brightness control of the display device to brightness control by the means for  
15 controlling the display brightness when inputting the predetermined operating instruction.

          4. The information apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the means for switching brightness control of the display device to another brightness  
20 control includes means for inputting the predetermined operating instruction, switching brightness control of the display device from brightness control by the means for controlling the display brightness to brightness control in accordance with the predetermined operating  
25 instruction, and, returning brightness control of the display device to brightness control by the means for controlling the display brightness when inputting a

predetermined specific operating input.

5        5. The information apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the means for switching brightness  
control of the display device to another brightness  
control includes means for inputting the predetermined  
operating instruction, switching brightness control of  
the display device from brightness control by the means  
for controlling the display brightness to brightness  
control in accordance with the predetermined operating  
10 instruction, and, returning brightness control of the  
display device to brightness control by the means for  
controlling the display brightness after a  
predetermined period of time has elapsed.

15        6. The information apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the means for switching brightness  
control of the display device to another brightness  
control includes means for switching brightness control  
of the display device from brightness control by the  
means for controlling the display brightness to  
20 brightness control in accordance with an instruction of  
the keyboard, and, returning brightness control of the  
display device to brightness control by the means for  
controlling the display brightness when a predetermined  
state transition according to system operation has  
25 occurred.

7. The information apparatus according to  
claim 2, wherein the means for switching brightness

control of the display device to another brightness control includes holding means for holding brightness information set to the application program; and means for, when initiation of the application program has  
5 been sensed, switching brightness control of the display device from brightness control by the means for controlling the display brightness to brightness control in accordance with the brightness information held by the holding means.

10           8. The information apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the means for switching brightness control of the display device includes information acquiring means for acquiring brightness information from the application program; and means for, when the  
15 information acquiring means acquires brightness information from the application program, switching brightness control of the display device from brightness control by the means for controlling the display brightness to brightness control in accordance  
20 with the brightness information acquired by the information acquiring means.

          9. The information apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the means for switching brightness control of the display device to another brightness  
25 control includes means for sensing an end of the application program and means for, when the sensing means senses an end of the application program,

returning brightness control of the display device to brightness control by the means for controlling the display brightness.

10. The information apparatus according to  
5 claim 2, wherein the means for switching brightness control of the display device to another brightness control includes means for returning brightness control of the display device to brightness control by the means for controlling the display brightness in  
10 accordance with an instruction of the application program.

11. A display brightness control method for the information processing apparatus including a keyboard and a display device which can control display  
15 brightness, comprising

temporarily switching brightness control of the display device to brightness control in accordance with the operation input of the keyboard, when a predetermined key of the keyboard is operated, in controlling  
20 display brightness of the display device according to a peripheral environment.

12. A display brightness control method for an information processing apparatus including a display device which can control display brightness, comprising  
25 switching brightness control of the display device to a predetermined brightness control to the application program, when a predetermined application program

is started-up, in controlling display brightness of the display device according to a peripheral environment.

13. A display brightness control method for an information processing apparatus comprising a display device which can control display brightness, comprising  
5 switching brightness control of the display device to brightness control in accordance with an instruction of the application program, when a predetermined application program is initiated, in controlling  
10 display brightness of the display device according to a peripheral environment.